

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

**RESOLUTION**

**Mr. David J. H. Thompson: St. John**

**WHEREAS** a company registered as Hardwood Factory Inc. was incorporated on November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006:

**AND WHEREAS** the government, through the Enterprise Growth Fund Limited, has invested \$2,000,000.00 in the said company:

**AND WHEREAS** the government has facilitated the operations of the company through:

- Active and direct involvement of Ministers, particularly the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, and other officials of the government in the operations and advocacy of the company's intended projects;
- Access to the application database of the National Housing Corporation;
- Grant of rent-free accommodation in a Barbados Investment and Development Corporation building at Six Roads, St. Philip;
- Facilitating the access to land at various locations throughout the island;
- Giving of contracts to construct four (4) pavilions for the National Sports Council;
- Giving of contracts to construct houses for the Urban Development Corporation;
- Indiscriminate and illegal hiring of undocumented non-Barbadian workers:

**AND WHEREAS** the company has been able to meet its financial obligations and as at August 28<sup>th</sup> 2007 had issued a number of unsatisfied cheques to various entities including a department of government:

**AND WHEREAS** the workers of the company have been subjected to acts of sexual abuse and victimization in the workplace and other breaches of labour codes and conventions:



**AND WHEREAS** the Member for St. Michael North West as Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2007 wrote a letter to the Leader of the Opposition stating, *“What better track-record could the company want than someone who supervised the building of 500 houses in six months in Grenada in the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan?”* which statement was untrue:

**AND WHEREAS** the Minister of State has, contrary to the conventions of Cabinet government and the obligations and duties of a Minister, personally involved himself in the sourcing of raw material for the company, in the daily operations of the company and may have benefited by way of private projects being undertaken by the company on a commercial building:

**AND WHEREAS** despite the serious financial and other abuses in relation to the operations of the company, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance has condoned and supported the unlawful acts of the company and its principals:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House has no confidence in the Minister of State and that he be relieved of his portfolio.



*[Handwritten signature]*

*on the 2007-11-27*

*at 2:00 PM*

*Pedro E. Eastmond*